

# Good buy Columbus — three coins

By Roger Boye

**T**he presumed likeness of Christopher Columbus would adorn a new commemorative coin if legislation in Congress becomes law.

Under the proposal introduced late last month, the U. S. Mint would make three types of coins in 1991 and 1992 to help celebrate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. One of the coins—a \$5 gold piece—is supposed to depict Columbus, although no authentic portrait of the man exists.

Profits from coin sales would go to a foundation, yet to be formed, that would support research designed to produce new discoveries for the benefit of mankind. A coin sellout would raise \$69 million for the foundation.

Other coin bills pending in Congress call for: 1989-dated palladium and silver pieces to mark the centennials of six western states; three coin types to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 1991 of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota; proof sets containing silver dimes, quarters and half dollars; and a circulating \$1 coin to replace \$1 Federal Reserve notes. The coin design would symbolize the discovery of America.

Meanwhile, U. S. Mint officials are evaluating possible designs for a 1990-dated silver dollar commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Dwight Eisenhower. Production is expected early next year.

Canadian coins next year will depict an aging Queen Elizabeth II, the first such design change in



Canada's new Queen Elizabeth coin (top) will appear in 1990.

25 years.

The new portrait—created by a Canadian sculptor—shows Queen Elizabeth wearing a diamond necklace and teardrop earrings. It replaces a portrait of the queen used on Canadian coinage since 1965.



The 1990 edition of "A Guide Book of United States Coins"—the hobby's most popular reference—includes dozens of price changes for rare coins, reflecting what the publishers call an unsettled and fast-moving coin market.

Featured in the just-released edition—the 43rd—is a one-page tribute to the book's author, Richard S. Yeoman, who died last year at age 84.

Many Chicago-area coin shops and book stores are selling the so-called "Red Book" for \$7.95.